

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2023**

USOF

†3370. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been provided under Telecom Policy-1999, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the provision of percentage of amount of Gross Revenue to be deposited by Telecom Operator Companies to this fund as per the Telecom Policy;
- (c) whether all the Telecom Operator Companies have deposited the amount of Gross Revenue in USOF as per the rules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the amount deposited as on date;
- (e) the details of the places in the country particularly in the backward class and the scheduled caste dominated areas where the Government has spent USOF for mobile network during the last five years, State-wise;
- (f) the details of the amount spent along with the details of the targets achieved, State-wise; and
- (g) the details of the amount to be paid for USOF as on date?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (g) As envisaged in the New Telecom Policy 1999, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was established under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.

At present, as per the License agreement the license fee 8% of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is inclusive of USO Levy which is 5% of the AGR. Telecom Service Providers are depositing the Licence Fee as per license agreement. As on 31.03.2023, total of Rs. 1,40,150.32 Crore has been collected as Universal Access Levy under USOF.

USOF funded schemes inter alia provides mobile network in rural and remote areas which also includes Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas. The State/UT-wise details of funds disbursed/ spent during last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23) under various USOF Schemes for providing Mobile Network in rural and remote areas including Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas is given in **Annexure-I**. Physical achievements made under the said Schemes during last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23) is given in **Annexure-II**.

An amount of Rs. 69,126.84 Crore is available in the USO Fund at the end of March 2023.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in Part (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3370 to be answered on 09.08.2023

The State/UT-wise details of funds disbursed/ spent during last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23) under various USOF Schemes for providing Mobile Network in the Country which also includes Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Figures in Rs. Crore
1	Andaman and Nicobar	10
2	Andhra Pradesh	294
3	Assam	337
4	NE-I (including Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	268
5	NE-II (including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland)	429
6	Bihar	223
7	Chhattisgarh	660
8	Gujrat	23
9	Himachal Pradesh	21
10	Jharkhand	591
11	Jammu and Kashmir (including Ladakh)	76
12	Karnataka	54
13	Kerala	13
14	Lakshadweep	10
15	Maharashtra	69
16	Madhya Pradesh	208
17	Odisha	537
18	Rajasthan	164
19	Telangana	111
20	Tamil Nadu	25
21	Uttar Pradesh	87
22	Uttarakhand	19
23	West Bengal	79
	Total	4309

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in Part (a) to (g) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3370 to be answered on 09.08.2023

Physical achievements made during last five years (2018-19 to 2022-23) under various USOF Schemes to provide Mobile Network in the Country including Backward and Scheduled Castes dominated areas

S. No.	Name of States/UT	Number of Towers Installed
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	16
3	Arunachal Pradesh	199
4	Assam	515
5	Bihar	28
6	Chhattisgarh	191
7	Gujarat	45
8	Himachal Pradesh	37
9	Jammu & Kashmir	62
10	Karnataka	3
11	Ladakh	56
12	Madhya Pradesh	63
13	Maharashtra	6
14	Manipur	404
15	Meghalaya	318
16	Mizoram	214
17	Nagaland	152
18	Odisha	91
19	Rajasthan	50
20	Sikkim	8
21	Tripura	3
22	Uttar Pradesh	26
23	Uttarakhand	31
24	West Bengal	1
Total		2520
